

MINUTES OF THE GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AREA STAFF MEETING, 26 SEPTEMBER 1955

25X1A9a

PRESENT: [REDACTED]

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1. [REDACTED] referred to [REDACTED] an OIR request for a forty-five minute presentation on methodology and tools of geographic research, with examples. The forty-five minutes should include a question and answer period. This is scheduled for the Intelligence Principles and Methods Course from 10:45 to 11:30 A.M., 28 September 1955. [REDACTED] is to inform [REDACTED] some time today of the names of the person scheduled to give the lecture. 25X1A9a

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2. [REDACTED] reported an opportunity for military reservists to participate at Carlisle in a seminar on the Far East or one on the USSR, during the period from 1 - 17 December 1955. Participants should have knowledge to contribute to the group discussions. This session could count as the normal active duty for the reservist, or if he has already been on military duty this fiscal year he will have to go on LWOP and collect only his military pay. More information on these Seminars is available from [REDACTED]. The Division Chiefs are to submit names of candidates to [REDACTED]. 25X1A9a

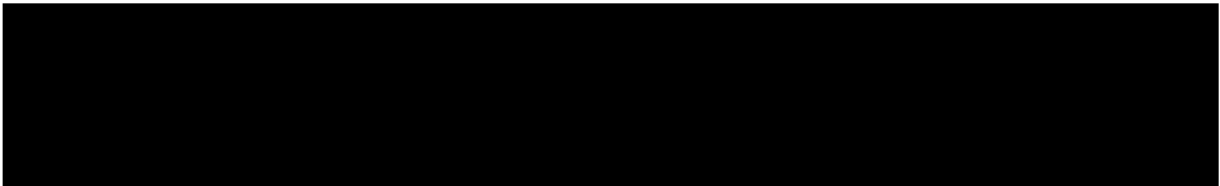
25X1A9a 3. The group discussed a "Memorandum for the Record" of Geographic Area war-time military reserve requirements submitted to St/A by [REDACTED] on 21 September. 25X1X6

25X1A9a 4. [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED], will be briefed in OIR today and tomorrow. He will be at [REDACTED] Office at 9:30 to 11:30 A.M. tomorrow morning. His interest is primarily on the Far East and Western Europe and a group should be present to brief him including [REDACTED], [REDACTED] as well as members of the Far East Branch, D/EG. 25X1A9a 25X1X6

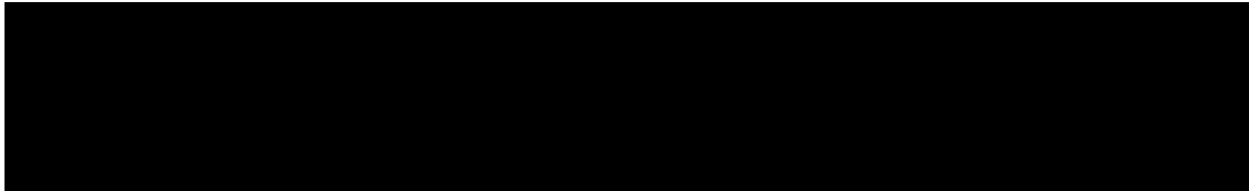
5. [REDACTED] commented that [REDACTED] will be here Wednesday and a briefing for him may be arranged, probably in the afternoon.

DOCUMENT NO. [REDACTED]
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25X1A9a 7. [REDACTED] reported that the Map Library Division is at
25X1X4 full strength now with no vacancies.



25X1A9a 9. [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED] has apparently made 25X1A9a
good contacts in Greece and has been able to travel widely. [REDACTED]
left for the Far East last week and [REDACTED] is to be back from
Western Europe today or tomorrow. 25X1A9a

25X1A9a 10. [REDACTED] asked about plans for an area picnic this fall.
It was decided that the shortness of the period between the time
children get home from school and the time when it gets dark makes
this time of year a poor time for a picnic and that next June would
be a better time.

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11. [REDACTED] commented that, because of the recently scheduled
NIS Chapter IX on the Antarctic, he has started attending the NIS
Committee meetings.

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12. [REDACTED] asked if there were any items for the Monthly 25X1A9a
DD/I Newsletter. It was decided that the trips of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] should be reported.

25X1A9a 13. [REDACTED] gave each of the Division Chiefs a copy of the
OTR draft paper, "Area Training Program: Philosophy and Aims". It was
noted that the Clark Committee recommended more Area and Language
training for CIA overseas employees and those with area responsibilities.
As a result a program of area training is being established including
five types of courses: the Basic Country Survey, the Regional Survey,
the Current Seminar, the Americans Abroad Courses, and the Omnibus
Program. OTR started this program last summer with a course on Japan
and a course on China, and [REDACTED], who was brought in to
teach these courses, was reported to be astounded at the lack of
basic area knowledge of many persons with official responsibilities

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for the areas. This fall Basic Country surveys are scheduled for Burma and Germany and there are regional surveys scheduled for Southeast Asia and the Middle East (Arab States and Israel). [REDACTED] 25X1A9a of OTR, who is developing the area training program, has commented that OTR does not expect to develop competent area specialists simply by means of this training program. OTR assumes that development of area specialists requires 7-13 years of language training, area training, overseas experience, and research experience. [REDACTED] commented 25X1A9a that he thought the OTR Area Training Program should be of considerable value to the Geographic Area personnel. [REDACTED] added that the 25X1A9a amount of interest of the DD/I components in the Area Training Program will be discussed at the next DD/I meeting of Training Liaison Officers in October and that by that time he will have to be able to give a rough estimate of Geographic Area interest in this program.

*14. The group discussed the revised Geographic Annex to the DD/I Global War Plan. The revision was prepared from materials submitted last week by the Divisions.